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Venice of Bydgoszcz

Tenement houses on the swift current of the Młynówka River. These buildings, once showing up almost straight from the water, are called the Venice of Bydgoszcz. In the past, rich burghers built here their workshops and plants, among others dye houses, distilleries, sawmills, and a bathhouse operated here as well.

17

Leon Barciszewski monument

In the square, there is the monument to Leon Barciszewski (designed by Sławoj Ostrowski), the last pre-war city mayor, who – along with his 18-year-old son – was murdered in an unknown place by the Nazis in November 1939.

18

Diuga Street

Walking amidst stylish tenement houses, mainly from the late 18th and the early 19th centuries, one can feel the atmosphere of old Bydgoszcz, though the merchants' major road had lost its position as the city's trade centre. It is worthwhile visiting the exceptional Museum of Soap and History of Dirt at number 13-17, and stopping by the 17th-century tenement house at number 22, the birthplace of painter Maksymilian Piotrowski (1813-1875), professor of the Academy of Fine Arts in Królewiec (Konigsberg). In the same building, as the legend has it, King Jan III Sobieski stayed in 1676 during his journey by the Vistula River to Gdańsk.

19

Casimir the Great monument

One of the most eminent monarchs in the history of Poland looks at us with authority, holding in his left hand a scroll – the foundation charter of Bydgoszcz. The monument was placed here in 2006. (designed by Mariusz Białecki).



20

Witold Bełza Voivodeship and Municipal Public Library

The building was erected in the 18th century for the Prussian administration. Collections of the library that used to belong to the Bydgoszcz Bernardine monastery are kept in the building. This is the city's oldest preserved book collection, which origins date back to the late 15th century. In front of the main entrance of the library, there is the bewitching sculpture-fountain "Children playing with a goose" (30) – a work of Karl P. Kowalczewski, which has been adorning the Old Market Square since 1909. Originally, the fountain was located in front of the Pharmacy under the "Golden Eagle", because it was funded by its owners, the Kupffender family, on the centennial anniversary of the operation of their pharmacy.



21

Master Twardowski

Each day at 13:13 and 21:13, the figure of Master Twardowski appears in smoke laughing awfully in the top window of the tenement house in the Old Market Square at number 15.



22

Covered market

Down Magdzińskiego Street we go towards the historical covered market opened in 1906 (to a design by the Berlin company of architects Boswau & Knauer). Above the entrance to the covered market, there is the city's impressive coat of arms, whereas inside the steel structure of the roof is noteworthy.

23

Church of St Andrzej Bobola

The view axis from the Old Market Square via Magdzińskiego Street is closed by the neo-Gothic Church of St Andrzej Bobola with a slender clock tower, dominating over Kościeleckich Square. The church, designed by Berlin architect Heinrich Seeling, was erected in 1903 for the Bydgoszcz Protestants. Quite surprising is the fact that now the Jesuit church still remains the highest building (75 m) in Bydgoszcz.

Bydgoszcz official city guide app including:

- Tourist attractions
- Sightseeing routes
- Events calendar
- Public transport
- Travel information



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Explore the Old Town



1

The Old Town

We start sightseeing of the Old Town in the Old Market Square in front of the Bydgoszcz Land Fight and Martyrdom Monument placed here in 1969 (designed by Franciszek Masiak). The monument commemorates the victims of the Nazi terror, especially the residents of Bydgoszcz who were executed in this place by firing squad on the first days of World War Two.



2

City Hall

Magnificent edifice of the old Jesuit College from the 17th century.



3

Fara Church – Cathedral

The Bydgoszcz Fara Church was wooden originally. After a fire, construction of a grand brick Gothic church was decided. The church was constructed in the years 1466-1502. The high altar painting is the thing that rivets the most the attention of the faithful and tourists. This is a late-Gothic painting of Our Lady with the Child Jesus, holding a rose in the other hand.



4

„Farny” Weir

Going around the cathedral, it is worthwhile paying attention to the Farny Weir, i.e. the place, where the Młynówka River, flowing around Młyńska (Mill) Island, falls into the Brda River. The present-day building of the Small Hydroelectric Power Plant, standing by the weir, is an old groat mill.



5

St John Nepomucene

In the vicinity, between yews, a bright observer will see the freestanding sculpture of St John Nepomucene from the 18th century, a saint who was to protect against a flood.



6

Granaries on the Brda River

Three half-timbered granaries from the turn of the 19th century, scenically located on the Brda River. In the past, these were among many grain storehouses in the city, and nowadays they belong to the Leon Wyczółkowski District Museum.



7

„Crossing the River”

The sculpture floating above the Brda River is the man “Crossing the River”, a tightrope walker smoothly balancing on the rope, which commemorates the day Poland joined the European Union in 2004 (designed by Jerzy Kędziora).



8

Lloyd Palace

The little “Palace” in the Netherlandic mannerism style on the right bank of the Brda River, constructed in the years 1885-1886 (designed by Waldemar Jenisch), is the old head office of, among others, Lloyd of Bydgoszcz, one of the biggest shipping companies in the Second Republic of Poland.



9

Opera Nova

The building was designed in 1961 (by Józef Chmiel and Andrzej Prusiewicz), and it took over 30 years to construct it (1973-2006). It is both a music stage and an important conference centre.



10

Bydgoszcz Marina

On the other side of the river, in the western part of Młyńska Island, one can see well the modern and excellently blending with its surroundings building of Bydgoszcz Marina, designed by the office APA Rokicy. The marina, completed in 2012, has won not only the hearts of Bydgoszcz residents but also many prestigious awards owing to its unique architecture



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Mill Island

Młyńska Island (Mill Island) is the green heart of Bydgoszcz, an enclave in the very city centre. The park, lanes of old trees, big lawns, lanes with benches, and the hum of the water falling down on the weir and culvert create a relaxing atmosphere here. Here we will find historical buildings of the museum with modern equipment, a water tram stop, a marina, a playground, an amphitheatre, many bicycle and walking paths, and even a beach, right next to a vast lawn, on where Bydgoszcz residents eagerly lounge on blankets.



13

White Granary

We go past the oldest facility on the island, the so-called White Granary from the late 18th century, which is now occupied by archaeological collections of the District Museum.



14

European Money Centre

Walking along the so-called Międzywodzie, an artificial canal crossing the island, on the left-hand side we go past the building of the European Money Centre, erected on the site of the buildings of the Bydgoszcz Mint (operating in the years 1594-1688), and the old steam mill from 1861, the so-called Red Granary, now the Modern Art Gallery.



15

House of Leon Wyczółkowski

The central part of the Bydgoszcz island is occupied by a complex of mills from the years 1848- 1849, i.e. the huge Rother's Mills. The scenic yellow building, located opposite them, is nowadays the so-called House of Leon Wyczółkowski, where one can admire paintings, graphics, and the workshop of the patron of the Bydgoszcz museum.